

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
COUNTY OF NEWPORT**

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Special Council Meeting on Saturday, the 13th day of February 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Ave.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilor President deMedeiros, Vice-President Chabot, Councilor Lambert, Councilor Mello, Councilor Pelletier, Councilor Perry and Councilor Sousa.

Town Administrator Wojcik, Solicitor Anthony DeSisto and Special Counsel Steve Robinson were also present.

1. Call To Order

Council President deMedeiros called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. with a pledge of allegiance to the flag. Roll call was taken.

In open session Councilor Lambert motioned to enter Executive Session seconded by Councilor Chabot pursuant to 42-6-5(a)(2)–White Arbitration. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

In open session Councilor Lambert motioned to remain in Executive Session seconded by Councilor Chabot pursuant to 42-6-5(a)(2) – Litigation – McLaughlin v. Town of Tiverton. Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Council entered Executive Session at 9:05a.m.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION:

White Arbitration

Litigation – McLaughlin v. Town of Tiverton

Council returned to Open Session at approximately 10:00 a.m.

OPEN SESSION:

In open session President deMedeiros announced action was taken in White arbitration and McLaughlin litigation.

Councilor Perry motioned to direct Special Counsel to proceed with direction given in Executive Session. Seconded by Councilor Lambert, motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilor Perry motioned to refer to Town Administrator to Comply with McLaughlin Court order. Seconded by Councilor Lambert, motion passed 5-2. Councilors Sousa and Chabot opposed.

Councilor Pelletier motioned to seal the minutes of Closed Executive Session. Seconded by Councilor Perry, motion passed 5-2 Councilors Sousa and Chabot opposed.

Council continued with open session

Tax Assessor

Dave Robert not present. Town Administrator presented increase in budget over prior year less than \$2000. Reduced telephone as in other departments, increased education and seminar by \$500 required for certification and good standing in Rhode Island Association. Town pays for classes. Last year this item was short in budget. Actual cost is \$2500. Small increase in supply. GIS data account down \$1000. Currently utilizing 3 vendors and going to 2 vendors. Staffing has one full time and shares clerk with Tax Collector.

Revaluation

This is restricted account and appropriate \$53,000 annually to help smooth out cost of updates and full revaluation.

Personnel Board

New account. Personnel Board now handling the applications. Request is for cost of post office box and response postcards to notify applicants.

Town Hall

Increase of \$3,300. Mainly for Essex Library, have alarm, phone line, heat, etc. to maintain minimum required. Will be placing on agenda shortly, have some offers to purchase or may need to use for planning department. Past Solicitor Teitz wanted a cyr pre action. Solicitor DeSisto has filed for declaratory judgment; can't determine use of building until have the judgment. Needs to be brought up to code to use as public building. Councilor Sousa concerned with septic system. Town Administrator informed no flow since not in use. Increase in Building Maintenance which pays for janitorial supplies as well. Heat account slight decrease.

Capital Non Recurring

Administrator explain in past was given as verbal presentations. Ordinances have grand process over months with P/B, capital committee, Treasurer and Town Administrator recommendations. Spreadsheet in budget and prioritized for this year by most worn out and ranked. Ordinances state life safety and human health are priorities. Goal is to know how much anticipate overtime and to stay on smooth path. Town lags this year in replacement of rescues. Operating rescue 1 – 10 years; rescue 2 -5 years and reserve rescue is 12 years old. All beyond useful life. Rescue 1 as of November spent 12k on repairs and down 21 times; twice with patients. If purchase one new this year will still have 2 obsolete. Capital requests are modest. Most expensive item is 80k for roof on Town Hall. Police cruisers 3 but Chief is requesting to purchase one now and save some money. Identified some projects in maintenance that have been done in reports. Have begun to take pictures, started files and have quotas on roofs and building repairs from professionals in that field.

Handed out chart on capital expenses. Within week will be fully flushed out and chart will be in color. Rescue useful life is 5 years but borrow for 5 years. Councilor Lambert commented on the interest the Town is paying on vehicles alone have spent over 225k over past 6 years just in interest. Hope to eventually have piggy bank to help purchase capital expenses.

Denise Saurette, Treasurer explained Town has relied on lease purchases. She has had discussions with Bay Coast Bank which holds a lot of Town's liquid cash; get the highest rate of interest, everything is insured and able to get money quickly. Also spoke with auditors relative to proposal basically getting loans from Bay Coast secured by our cash. Currently have 8 million with Bay Coast. They would secure and pay off leases much like passbook loan. Each year appropriate to pay back loan, essentially paying ourselves. Earning .4 and charging between 60 and 75 basis points netting 25/30 basis points. We will not accrue the interest for amount loaned. Highest interest being paid on lease fire engine is 4.7% to a recent low of 1.89%. Sees as alternate means to finance. Need strict discipline. Councilor Pelletier questioned the mechanics of securing cash balance and what could happen if default on the bill. Administrator added is replenished with budget amount. Secured liquid cash. Sounds low risk. Councilor Chabot asked if any other cities or towns are financing this way. Treasurer not aware of any.

Administrator continued with budget discussion. Will be putting B/C on notice that the health insurance is running high claims to premium. Just received second 2015 quarter. Uses two year look back, could be high increase up to 20%. Some non-recurring absolutely need to be done. One less police car. Councilor Perry raised issue of police audio & video recording and the need to purchase. Councilor Sousa referred to Town Hall roof at 80k. Don't think need entire roof replaced; back roof only 20 years old. Need to connect valley, poor design. Needs to be looked at by architect and given a plan. Fire station roof was supposed to be after north

end; Crandall was next on list. Definitely need boiler at station 1 but 20k seems high for size of building. Boilers cost \$2100, excessive need better bid system.

Town Administrator worked with Vallencourt electric on this quote. Quotes need prevailing wage, may be different model, boiler and water heater. Also while in mechanical room like to go to proper water function. Need to look globally. If overpriced will rebid, don't want to short ourselves.

Town hall roof, police cars, roof station 3, boiler station 1, wall at station 3, audio video for police department, air packs, catch basin cleaner attachment were all considered to be added to capital list.

Administrator hopeful Grinnell's beach will get a grant. Matching requirements. Waiting on DEM Parks and Recreation to be able to bid. Needs to be in budget to show serious about fixing. Same at Fogland. Not structurally failed but within coastal zones.

Motion made by Councilor Perry to accept mentioned items for capital improvement, seconded by Councilor Lambert. Motion passed 6-1. Councilor Sousa opposed.

Capital Recurring - Lease

Administrator and Fire Chief addressed replacement rescue on Capital recurring. Chief explained cost is higher due to bigger heavier trucks. New requirement for load lift system adds 40k to cost. Moves stretcher from ground and secures in truck. Going into effect 7/1. Applying for regional grant to retrofit other trucks. Councilor Sousa talked about bid process and how long companies have been in business. Not happy with current manufacturer. Chief explained getting 10 years out of vehicle because of the manufacturer. Councilor Perry asked if looked at other communities for what they were using. Chief standard in industry using same 5 year plan. Freightliner, International in south and north station. Now looking at Kenworth. One coming Friday to north station 1 at 10 am. Invited anyone to come and look it over. Chief will forward the video to Council. Councilor Perry motioned to forward votes on Tax Assessor, Revaluation, Personnel Board, Town Hall and Municipal Capital. Seconded by Councilor Mello, motion passed unanimously

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Perry motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Sousa. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

A True Copy.

ATTEST:

Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk